

Although Embarrassing for Its Victims, Epilepsy Seldom Fatal

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., L. A. County Health Officer

Epilepsy is a hush-hush disease, and for that reason most people do not realize that it affects approximately 750,000 persons in the United States.

The disease tends to be concealed by those who suffer from it, and by their families as well, because of ignorance and misconceptions which date back to past ages. All too often, epileptics have been made outcasts and their families have been ashamed to feel hopeless and

Despite the fact that the social aspects of epilepsy still cause trouble today, there is no question that education of the public, together with recent medical advances, have given epileptic patients and their families an outlook on life that is far brighter than it was even ten years ago.

Most people today know that epilepsy has nothing to do with feeble-mindedness. Mentally, some are above average, some average, some below average. In any group, a small number are quite a bit below average and cannot be educated.

Victim Loses Consciousness

Epilepsy is a seizure—or fit, as some people call it, in which the victim loses consciousness and may suffer from convulsions.

The two most usual forms of the disease are petit mal, not too serious, and grand mal, both caused by abnormal brain waves. Petit mal occurs usually in children. The child blacks out momentarily and rarely falls. Grand mal is the serious form of the disease and occurs in all age groups. The victim blacks out, falls, jerks convulsively, and usually chews his tongue and lips. This seizure is followed by a deep sleep which should not be disturbed.

Brain Injury Less Common

A less common form of the disease is psychomotor epilepsy, caused by brain injury. The victim is confused and appears to be acting out a nightmare. Psychomotor epilepsy usually requires brain surgery.

The most effective treatment of epilepsy is accomplished through the use of new drugs called anti-convulsants. Half of

the epileptics treated with these medicines are relieved completely of seizures while an additional 25 per cent are helped to an extent that the number of seizures is reduced to a point where they can live an almost completely normal existence.

Epilepsy is not a common cause of death. Statistics from the state of New York (1942-44) show that the disease itself was responsible for only one death for every 1250 cases. Statistics from John Hopkins Hospital reveal, however, that when the disease had continued from 15 to 21 years, the death rate was nine times that of the group having epilepsy less than three years. The chances for recovery, on the other hand, do not tend to be affected by the duration of the disease.

At the present time there appears to be an awakening of public interest in epilepsy. It is entirely possible that what ever ignorance and prejudice surrounds the disease at present will be largely eliminated in our lifetime. It is hoped by many that the conquest of the disease itself will come to pass in the present century.

Columnists Back from Vacation; Praise Speed of Sewer Progress

By MARY and JACK WEBB FR 5-3051

If you detect a sort of slow drawl to this column, you're a discerning person. We've been on our annual two weeks with pay, lazing around the San Bernardino Mountains, and we suspect some of the laziness is going to brush off on our writings this week.

We're pleased to note the dispatch with which our City Council and Engineers expedited the sewer proceedings. The bids were announced and lowest accepted in a matter of 24 hours. As you probably already know, the Ramifac Co. won the bid and construction should start very soon. The company's bid was about \$50,000 below engineer's estimates, which means a nice savings all around for us homeowners.

Congratulations go to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Mabin, of 209 Via Colusa, on the birth of their third daughter on July 20 at the San Pedro Community hospital. The arrival weighed into the world at a mere 3 lbs., 13 oz. and spent "mucho tiempo" in the incubator. Dr. E. M. Broen attended Mrs. Mabin, who is coincidentally removed throughout this area for her work as director of Los Cañoneros, the award winning Riviera choral group. The Mabins have not yet named their new daughter who

joins Kathryn, 6, and Melody, 8, at the Mabin residence.

Visiting with his daughter, Mrs. Donald Beaver, of 221 Via los Miradores, is James A. Hare, who flew here from Prospect Park, Pa. Mr. Hare is 84 years of age, says Mrs. Beaver, who adds that this was his first trip by airplane. He plans to stay with the Beavers for most of the summer.

NEW NEIGHBOR DEPT: Welcome to Mr. and Mrs. John Jongsma, who recently moved into their new home at 317 Via el Chico. The Jongsmas, together with their five sons, moved here from Lennox, where they lived while waiting for their home in Riviera to be completed. The Jongsmas sons are Tim, 20, Keith and Kenneth, twins, 17, and Jack, 9, and Steve, 8.

Capt. Glen Noyes, of 380 1/2 Calle Miramar, currently is overseas in Korea with the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing of the Air Force. Capt. Noyes is a fighter pilot, handling a F-86 Sabre Jet in his training missions. His wife, Bernice, reports he expects to be on overseas assignment about a year, before he returns home.

A whopping success was the Hollywood Riviera Democratic club's breakfast last Sunday at El Retiro Park. Over 300 Riviera-ans sprinkled with a few fam-

ilies from outside this area filled up on pancakes and the trimmings. Allan K. Jonas, Democratic candidate for 46th district assemblyman and Dick Richards, Democratic candidate for state senator, were on hand to talk things over with the swarm of Riviera Democrats who attended this first big function of the newly organized Riviera club.

Outstanding were the 300 signs and posters hung up around the park, signs in serious and semi-serious veins. The less serious posters held the most attention, purporting such things as "Dick Richards walked 19 miles to return to a Thrifty Drug store," and "Allan Jonas was born in a log cabin," etc.

Then last Tuesday, in the club's regular monthly meeting, Elizabeth Snyder, newly elected head of the State Democratic Committee, was honored guest and principal speaker. The meeting, held at the Riviera Beach club, heard her outline the capabilities of the various Democratic candidates and call for party harmony to meet the challenge of next November's elections. Judge John Shidler, member of the Riviera club, pointed out that the club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Riviera Beach club, and invited all Riviera-ans interested to attend the meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Riley, of 438 Calle de Aragon, are entertaining eastern visitors these weeks.

Misses Ida and Margaret Schumacher of Chicago, visited with the Rileys for several weeks leaving Riviera to return to Chicago last week. Other visitors over the past few weeks have been Mrs. Jeff Neal of Niles, Ill.; Mrs. Lillian Higgins, of Chicago, and Miss Mary Ellen Schumacher, also of Chicago.

Recent guests at the home of Mrs. John Reed, 138 Via Alameda, were her sister and brother, Charles and Doris Henderson of Jackson, Tenn. They spent two weeks with Mrs. Reed, enjoying sightseeing trips of Southern California and renewing their acquaintance with nephews Larry and Steve.

We might mention that we're entertaining a visitor too. He's John Wilcox, young brother of Mary, who is spending a couple of months with us. He's, from Mary's home town, Lima, Ohio, and is 14 years of age. Johnny accompanied us on our trip to the mountains and has been to Knott's Berry Farm with us and other points of interest. He professes a deep and undying admiration for the swell swimming, the white beach, and the warm Pacific Ocean waters at our doorstep, so to speak. He'll stay another couple of weeks before returning to Lima in time for the fall school term.

One of those trips we all dream about was taken recently

Miss Robin Cockerill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Almond Cockerill, of 384 Paseo de Gracia. Long in the complete telling, it encompassed a trip via Pan American Air, to Mexico City, along with eight other high school students and four adults. Staying at the Hotel Francis in Mexico City, the group took sight seeing trips all through the surrounding countryside. They visited Taxco where they stayed overnight, visiting silver factories and the many bright shops of that city. Other trips included seeing the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon, the floating gardens of Xochimilco, rides on the flower boats, seeing a jail trial game and attending a jai alai game and attending a jai alai game on a Sunday afternoon at Mexico City. Dinner parties and dancing took more of their week's time south of the border, but Miss Cockerill reports they still were able to get a day's shopping in at the famous Sanborn's department store. The latter is outstanding from the exterior, being built entirely of blue tile. Miss Cockerill left Riviera on Aug. 8, returned home one week later on Aug. 10.

Hollywood Riviera Sportsmen's club meets tonight at the Riviera Beach club in their regular club rooms. Meeting is called to order at 8 p.m. and proxy Louis Regan invites all Riviera-ans to attend the club's regular monthly meeting.

Hard at work preparing for the annual community breakfast of the Court Our Lady of Victory No. 1344, Catholic Daughters, are many Riviera-ans who are invited, Mrs. John Coverdale, program chairman, said.

part in the affair. Committee chairman report that the breakfast will be held next Sunday, Aug. 22, starting at 8:30 p.m. and continuing until 12:30 p.m., at the St. James Parish, Vincent St. and Broadway, Redondo Beach. In charge of the kitchen detail will be Mrs. Howard Baldwin, while Mrs. Lyle Peters heads the dish committee. Mrs. George Schneider and Mrs. Will Zens are co-chairmen of the ticket sales, and Mrs. Jack Webb is co-chairman of the breakfast. All are Hollywood Riviera residents. They added that the menu will be pancakes and bacon, syrup and jam, milk and coffee, and orange juice. All you can eat, say they, for just 50 cents, adults, 35 cents for children. Proceeds go to the many charities the local Catholic Daughters Court supports. And all the chairmen and officers added unanimously that they are indebted to Jack Veltman and Jim May of Frontier Market and Meat Department for donating the foods and meat for the charitable affair.

Writers to Hear Hannibal Coons

Hannibal Coons, fiction writer, will be the featured speaker at the Southwest Manuscripters meeting tomorrow night at 8 o'clock in Clark Stadium on Valley Dr. in Hermosa Beach. Author of the short story, "Red Hot Gusher," which appears in the current Collier's, Coons will talk particularly to writers who want to sell to the "slick" magazine. The public is invited, Mrs. John Coverdale, program chairman, said.

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